



ATSAF Academy
Academy for International Agricultural Research for Development

Junior Scientists Tandems

Final Report

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Introduction

I am pleased to present this report on my stay in Germany as a Junior Scientist Tandem Scholar from Kenya. This experience has been a remarkable blend of academic enrichment, cultural exploration, and personal growth. Thanks to Junior scientist Tandem Program

The Journey

My adventure began with a thrilling experience of traveling on one of the largest airplanes. Boarding the massive aircraft felt like stepping into a floating city. The sight of the enormous airplane stairs was both intimidating and exciting – they seemed to reach the sky itself! Climbing those stairs felt like embarking on a grand voyage, and I couldn't help but feel a rush of excitement mixed with a hint of nervousness.





Once aboard, the journey was an adventure in itself. Staying in the sky for such a long time was a novel experience, offering breathtaking views of the clouds and landscapes below. It was fascinating to observe how day turned into night as we flew over different time zones. The in-flight entertainment, delicious meals, and the occasional turbulence made the journey memorable. It was like a mini vacation before reaching my destination!

Interaction with International Students

Studying at JLU and Humboldt University provided an enriching environment where I interacted with students from around the world. These interactions were both academically stimulating and culturally enlightening. The diverse perspectives and collaborative spirit among international students fostered a vibrant learning community. We shared ideas, experiences, and cultural insights, broadening our understanding of global agricultural challenges and solutions.

Visits to Organizations and Broader Perspectives

During my stay, I had the opportunity to visit several organizations, including the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). These visits were eye-opening, offering insights into international development projects and global cooperation in addressing environmental and agricultural issues. Interacting with professionals at GIZ and other organizations expanded my vision of potential career paths and underscored the importance of international collaboration in sustainable development.

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Cultural and Personal Experiences

Living in Germany has been an adventure in itself. From learning some new words of the local language to understanding the rich cultural nuances, every day offered a new learning experience. I had the chance to visit some of the nice places. The community's warmth and hospitality made my stay comfortable and enjoyable. One of the funnier moments was navigating the public transport system. On my first day, I accidentally boarded a train heading in the opposite direction of my destination. What started as a potential mishap turned into an impromptu exploration of a charming little town. These unexpected adventures added a layer of excitement to my stay.





Challenges and Solutions

Adapting to a new country came with its challenges, such as language barriers and cultural differences. However, I embraced these challenges as opportunities to learn and grow. The support from my mentors and peers played a crucial role in my successful adaptation.

Conclusion

My stay in Germany as a JST student has been a transformative experience. I am profoundly grateful to Junior Scientist Tandem Program for making this possible. The knowledge, skills, and experiences I have gained will undoubtedly shape my future research and career.

Acknowledgements

I extend my heartfelt thanks to my mentors, professors, and the administrative staff at Justus Liebig University and Humboldt University, Berlin, for their unwavering support. I am also thankful to my fellow students for their camaraderie and to ATSAF Academy for their generous support.

Future Plans

After completing my program, I plan to continue my research in sustainable farming practices in drylands and contribute to developing resilient agricultural systems in Kenya. The experiences and insights gained from my stay in Germany will be instrumental in achieving these goals.

Thank you and may God bless you all.
